



Eye on *the Web*

LINKS TO THE RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

Criminal Justice Resources

The study of criminal justice is fast approaching its centennial, while its parent field of criminology dates to the eighteenth century. Where criminology is concerned with the study of crime and its prevention, criminal justice normally focuses on the components of the system itself (i.e., the police, courts and correctional services). This column will provide readers with Web resources that offer information about and/or access points to research and statistics related to the criminal justice system with a focus on Canada and the United States of America.

Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA)

<http://www.ccja-acjp.ca/>

Founded in 1919, the main aim of CCJA is to work towards an improved criminal justice system in Canada. This membership based organization publishes the *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, a leading journal in the field in Canada. The journal's Table of Contents are available via the Web site from 1997 forward; abstracts are available post-2003. The site also offers selected full text book reviews in the field of criminology, links to upcoming events, briefs and articles, some of which are prepared by CCJA. The association also has criminal justice affiliates in eight Canadian provinces, linked at the top of the homepage via the "Affiliates and Partners" tab.

Statistics Canada and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

<http://www.statcan.ca/>

It should come as no surprise that the first place to look for statistical information about criminal justice in Canada is the Statistics Canada (STC) Web site. Follow the "Canadian Statistics" button near the top of the homepage and then drill down to "Tables by Subject" – linked on the left side of the resulting page. Select "Justice" to provide a list of freely available tables covering correctional services (e.g., admissions, incarceration rates), courts (e.g., convictions, expenditures), crimes and offences (e.g., type of offence, youth cases), legal aid (e.g., applications, expenditures), offenders (e.g., correctional service admissions), and police services (e.g., expenditures, personnel per capita). Use the advanced search function linked near the top of the STC homepage to conduct more specialized

searches. For example, phrase searching can be used to limit results to products associated with the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS). Created in 1981, the CCJS is a division of Statistics Canada that works with federal and provincial government agencies to collect, tabulate, and publish statistical information from all areas of our justice system. Many CCJS items are available free on-line and/or through depository libraries.

Correctional Service of Canada (CSC)

<http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/>

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) is the federal government agency tasked with encouraging and assisting offenders with sentences of two years or greater to become law-abiding citizens. The Research Branch of the CSC produces a newsletter as well as a range of reports and briefs, with full text access linked from the "Research" tab at the top of the homepage. The "Publications" tab guides users through an impressive list of online publications, organized by subject and title. Some of these resources deal with topical issues including restorative justice and family violence, while others focus on specific groups of inmates, such as Aboriginals or women. In addition, users have the opportunity to sign up for publication alerts. And don't miss the "Links" section of the Web sites, as it provides access to the Web sites of related federal and provincial agencies as well as NGOs.

National Criminal Justice Reference Service

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/index.html>

Funded by the US federal government and administered by the Office of Justice Programs (US Department of Justice), NCJRS is a service rich with resources on corrections, courts, crime, crime prevention, drugs, juvenile justice, law enforcement and victims of crime. Use the menu on the left of the homepage to access resources on these topics and related subtopics. Many publications can be downloaded for free. NCJRS is also equipped with an on-line library that provides access to a searchable Abstracts Database with more than 185,000 entries. In addition, the library maintains an ILL service available to libraries in both the US and Canada and the International Document Exchange (IDE), comprised of 54 member countries including Canada. If you are still stumped, the NCJRS also maintains an "Ask Questions" on-line reference service.